
NUMERIC TARGET

A numeric target is used to reduce/eliminate trash loads to meet the Water Quality Objective's that protect the New River beneficial uses. The designated beneficial uses for the New River are water contact recreation (REC I); water non-contact recreation (REC II); warm freshwater habitat (WARM); wildlife habitat (WILD); and preservation of rare, threatened or endangered species (RARE) as listed in the Basin Plan.

Two problems caused by floatable debris to wildlife are entanglement and ingestion. Even very small amounts of trash can injure or kill wildlife thus adversely affecting (WARM), (WILD), and (RARE). Debris such as diapers, medical waste, and household waste are a source of bacteria and toxic substances thus adversely affecting REC I and REC II beneficial uses. Aesthetics are also impaired by trash and part of the beneficial use for REC II (USEPA 2002). To assure the protection of all beneficial uses, the numeric target is zero (0). This number is a proposed goal for the New River and contains an implicit margin of safety. Progress in attaining this goal will be gauged by the implementation of management and mitigative actions in accordance with this TMDL.

BASIS FOR NUMERIC TARGET

Trash is not a naturally occurring pollutant, therefore, there is no valid numeric value that can be justified. There is no background concentration to compare with, and furthermore, there is no scientific literature that addresses an acceptable loading of trash with which aquatic life can live. Best professional judgment is the basis for the numeric target.